

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE BOROUGH OF GREAT TORRINGTON
FOR THE YEAR 1947.

During the year the general health of the Borough has been very good.

BIRTHS. There were 70 births - 36 boys and 34 girls - compared with 57 during the preceding twelve months, and 46 the year before that.

DEATHS. There were 63 deaths - 21 male and 42 female - compared with 57 in the preceding twelve months.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

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| Heart Disease.....15 | Cancer of Uterus.....1 |
| Cerebral Vascular Disease..14 | Cancer of Colon.....1 |
| Senility.....12 | Pneumonia.....1 |
| Nephritis.....5 | Bronchopneumonia.....1 |
| Bronchitis.....3 | Bronchiectasis.....1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....2 | Lymphadenoma.....1 |
| Cancer of Breast.....2 | Accidental Drowning.....1 |
| Cancer of Stomach.....2 | Suicide.....1 |

TUBERCULOSIS. One new case of tuberculosis of the lungs was notified during the year. There were two deaths from this disease.

VENEREAL DISEASE. No case of venereal disease has come to my notice.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:-

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| Whooping Cough....11 |
| Measles.....10 |
| Scarlet Fever.....2 |
| Erysipelas.....2 |

A number of ^{cases of} mumps occurred during the months of January and February, and chicken-pox in February and March. No case of poliomyelitis occurred.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. The numbers of children protected against diphtheria during the year were:-

Children under 5 years: Primary inoculation (2 injections)...23

Children aged 5-15: Primary inoculation (2 injections)...48
Re-inoculation (1 injection).....364

No case of diphtheria was notified.

WATER SUPPLY. The quality of the piped water-supply is good. The water receives no chemical treatment. In August, analysis of the water showed a moderate contamination by non-faecal coliform bacilli. The cause of this was traced to pollution by stray cattle in the collection-area; and the water improved when this cause was eliminated. A fairly heavy deposit of algae was noted in the water after the filter-beds had been cleaned; this matter was referred to the County Medical Officer, who investigated it and reported that the condition was not harmful to health. In May, lead was detected in the water to the extent of 0.03 parts per million; but no lead was found on previous or subsequent occasions (4 analyses were made during the year).

All dwelling houses in the built-up area (population about 2,800) have a piped water-supply; whilst the outlying farms and cottages (population about 200) obtain their water from local wells.

W. R. G. G. G.

Medical Officer of Health.
Borough of Great Torrington.

